The Structure of the Sunday Gathering: The Collective Tone

The **Sunday Gathering** is the weekly communal act of worship and **Service**. It is a time for the individual Tones of the community to merge into one unified **Collective Tone**, reaffirming the shared commitment to the **Golden Way**.

1. The Purpose and Duration

The Gathering must be structured to ensure **Clarity** and efficiency, respecting the **time and labor** of the community.

- **Duration:** The formal Gathering will not exceed **one continuous hour (60 minutes)**.
- **The Intent:** The service is focused on **Reflection** (Parable Reading & Discussion), **Devotion** (Prayer), and **Harmony** (Musical Service & Poetry).

2. The Order of Service (The Rhythms of Harmony)

The Gathering must follow this fixed, six-part structure to ensure continuity and spiritual focus.

#	Segment	Focus	Max Time
1	**Opening Musical Number**	Setting the initial **Tone** and **Rhythm**	10 min
2	**The Teaching of the Parables (Reading)**	The Pillar reads the chosen weekly parable	10 min
3	**The Discussion of the Parables**	Communal reflection and application of the moral	15 min
4	**The Sunday Prayer**	Recitation of The Threefold Prayer/Principles	10 min
5	**Final Musical Number**	The **Offering of Tone** and collective inspiration	10 min
6	**The Closing & Poetry Reading**	Pillar's Counsel, Service announcements, and final Hum	5 min

3. The Mandate of the Musical Service (The Offering of Tone)

The musical service is an offering of labor, preparation, and skill, intended to build **Harmony** and **Resonance**.

A. Inclusivity and Authority

- **Music Selection Protocol:** If an established **ensemble** requests to perform, the ensemble leader and the Pillar **must discuss and agree** on the musical selection. If it is just the Pillar, they **alone choose the music**.
- **Resource Integrity:** Everyone is strongly encouraged to use **free, legal, publicly available resources** for sheet music, educational materials, and conducting guidance.
- **Four-Hour Integrity Check (Mandatory Rehearsal):** All ensemble musicians must arrive **four hours (240 minutes) before** the start of the Gathering to conduct a mandatory, final rehearsal.

4. Submission Protocol for Creative Service

All creative contributions to the service must be vetted to maintain spiritual **Clarity**.

- **Review Mandate:** Any follower wishing to present or display an item of **Poetry** or **Visual Art** during the Sunday Gathering must follow the submission protocol below.
- **The 24-Hour Review:** The full text of the poem or a clear image/description of the visual art piece **must be submitted to the Pillar no later than one day (24 hours) before the Sunday Gathering**.
- **Pillar's Duty:** The Pillar will review the submission to ensure it conveys **Harmony** and is in **Integrity** with the spiritual themes of the week and the **Golden Way**. This prevents the introduction of unaligned **Discord** into the communal worship.

5. The Discussion of the Parables (Communal Reflection)

Following the reading (Segment 2), the Pillar will lead a **15-minute guided discussion** focused purely on the moral of the parable and how it can be applied to practical Acts of Service during the coming week. This ensures the wisdom is immediately turned into **action and responsibility**.